with an Indian industry are also in progress for Good Manufacturing Practices grade production of vaccinogens; and to coduct human clinical trials.

(c) and (d) Contemplating the future scenario of HIV/AIDS in India, the Department of Bio-technology has provided required financial assistance and logistic support towards launching major multicentric and interactive R&D projects for development of diagnostic test systems, molecular typing of HIV/AIDS isolates, immunological and virological responses in normal and infected human subjects, vaccine delivery systems and establishment of a virus bank, which have paved the way towards design and development of appropriate vaccine candidates in this country. New programmes have been initiated for identification and characterization of HIV receptors on spermatozoa, factors responsible for gene regulation in HIV infection and its replication. Currently, efforts are underway towards formulation of projects for identification and standardization of various parameters/assay protocols to be used during human clinical trials to measure the appropriate immune response of the vaccines. It is also planned to develop additional clinical trials sites for future testing of the candidate vaccinogens and development of production facilities for vaccinogens under Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) conditions with the involvement of Indian biotech industries. The Department is addressing the relevant issues on patenting of new generation vaccines and regulatory aspects.

(e) Question does not arise.

Irregularities in Recruitment Process

804. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of Parliament submitted letters dated 18th March, 2002, 17th September, 2002, 28th September, 2004 and 26th October, 2004 regarding irregularities in the recruitment processes of scientists, technical officers, section officers and assistants in National Institute of Science Communication & Information Resources and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and

(b) if so, the details of action taken including the responsibility fixed and chargesheet issues, if any, against the officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issues raised by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament *vide* his letters dated 18th March, 2002 and 17th September, 2002 are *sub-judice*. The issues raised by Hon'ble Member in his letters dated 28th September, 2004 and 26th October, 2004 were examined and no irregularities were observed.

Working of Science Institutes

805. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Science Institutes in the country are being run badly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the research projects on which millions of rupees are spent, are not achieving desired results; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Money invested in research projects cannot always be measured in terms of immediate economic returns. There have been areas where small investments have led to substantial results. There have also been areas of research where investments have not yielded immediate economic benefits. However, in almost all cases, these projects lead to generation of new intellectual property, by way of published papers, patents or products.

(d) Does not arise.